

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] 1. An optical switch comprising:
a plasma field.

[Claim 2] 2. The switch of claim 1 wherein:
said plasma field is generated electronically.

[Claim 3] 3. The switch of claim 2 further comprising:
a positive electrode; and
a negative electrode.

[Claim 4] 4. The switch of Claim 1 further comprising:
an inlet port; and
a plurality of outlet ports.

[Claim 5] 5. The switch of Claim 4 further comprising:
a plasma chamber.

[Claim 6] 6. The switch of Claim 5 wherein:
said inlet port and said plurality of outlet ports are contained within said
plasma chamber.

[Claim 7] 7. The switch of Claim 1 wherein:
said plasma field is generated by a laser.

[Claim 8] 8. The switch of Claim 1 wherein:
a light signal is reflected by said plasma field.

[Claim 9] 9. The switch of Claim 1 further wherein:

The electron density of the plasma field is varied to alter the path of a light signal through the plasma field.

[Claim 10] 10. An optical switch comprising:

a gas; and
a means for generating a plasma field in said gas.

[Claim 11] 11. The optical switch of Claim 10 further comprising:

an inlet port; and
an outlet port.

[Claim 12] 12. The optical switch of Claim 10 further comprising:

a lens.